

Microsoft Office and alternatives





Microsoft Office 2010 and earlier

- Support has ended for Office 2010 recently.
- You can still use it if you own it, but you will not receive bug fixes, patches or security updates. You will also no longer be able to access technical support from Microsoft.
- Support from other companies may also be limited, as they move focus to more recent versions.
- Compatibility with current and future file formats may stop working.
- Robust antivirus is strongly recommended if you continue to use Office 2010 or any earlier version.

Later versions of MS Office

- Extended support for Office 2013 ends in 2023.
- Extended support for Office 2016 ends in 2025.
- The current version is Office 2019.
- Office 2019 for Mac is supported until 2023.





Alternatives from Microsoft

- The current version, Office 2019, can be bought for £120, and includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint for 1 PC or Mac. You will receive support for the life of the product, but not updates to future versions.
- Microsoft's preferred option, Microsoft 365, is a subscription based service, which includes updates to future versions as long as you are subscribed. You will receive all the desktop office apps, as well as OneDrive storage space, Skype minutes and more. The cost is £60/year for one person, or £80/year for a family.
- Limited versions of Word, Excel and PowerPoint are available on the web for free, if your needs are basic and you don't require advanced features.

Non Microsoft alternatives

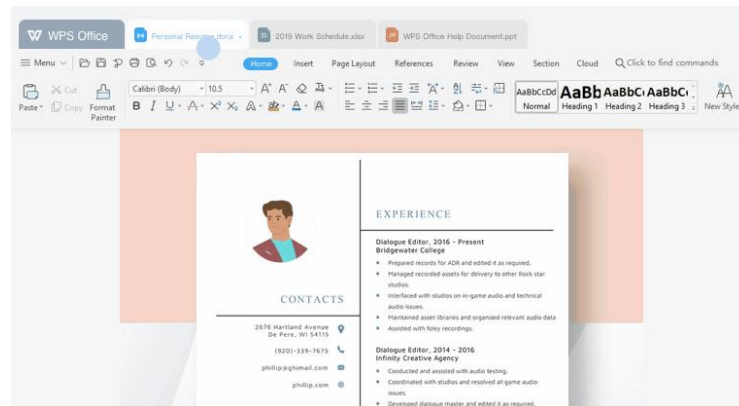
- Kingsoft WPS Office
- LibreOffice (The Document Foundation)
- Apache OpenOffice
- SoftMaker Office/FreeOffice
- Google Docs



Kingsoft WPS Office



- Writer, Spreadsheets and Presentation apps
- Ribbon interface or classic icons
- Tabbed documents
- Supports many file formats including MS Office and PDF
- Free with ads, otherwise £24/year or £95 lifetime



LibreOffice/OpenOffice



- Both free and open source
- Write, Calc, Impress, Base, Draw and Math
- Familiar icon interface
- Latest versions: LibreOffice 7.0.2/OpenOffice 4.1.7
- LibreOffice can save in modern Microsoft file formats, while OpenOffice can only import them.



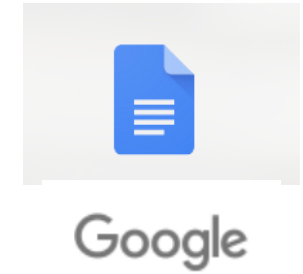
SoftMaker Office/FreeOffice



- Free version includes word processor, spreadsheet and presentations.
- Paid version has lots of extras including high quality spellchecking, built in file manager, and many additional features for the standard apps.
- Choice of ribbon or classic interface.
- Available as a subscription (£25/year) or one off purchase (£73).



Google Docs



- Free with a google account
- Easy to share and collaborate
- Available on any computer with an internet connection and modern browser (Google chrome is recommended)
- Integrated with google drive cloud storage (15 GB free or pay to upgrade)



Links

- [Microsoft 365/Office 2019](#)
- [Microsoft Office online](#) (requires a Microsoft Account)
- [WPS Office](#)
- [OpenOffice](#)
- [LibreOffice](#)
- [FreeOffice](#)
- [Google Docs](#)